

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 01670 250802Z

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, US, PK, IN

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER, BHUTTO ON LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO

THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE FROM THE PAKISTAN TIMES,
FEB. 25, WHICH REPORTS PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S STATEMENT
ON THE LIFTING THE US ARMS EMBARGO TO SOUTH ASIA: QUOTE:

"CONTRIBUTION TO STABILITY, SAYS P.M. - LARKANA,
FEB. 24: PRIME MINISTER ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO SAID
HERE TONIGHT THAT THE LIFTING OF THE AMERICAN ARMS
EMBARGO IS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE STABILITY AND
SECURITY OF THE REGION IN WHICH PAKISTAN AND INDIA
BOTH ARE PLACED.

"IN A STATEMENT ISSUED HERE, MR. BHUTTO ALLAYED

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 01670 250802Z

INDIAN FEARS ON THIS COUNT AND EXPRESSED REGRET THAT

THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WAS BEING STRANGELY INTERPRETED IN INDIA. ACTUALLY INDIA HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THIS DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID. PAKISTAN WAS DETERMINED TO PURSUE THE PATH OF NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS CHARTED OUT IN THE SIMLA AGREEMENT.

"MR. ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO SAID: 'THE LIFTING OF THE TEN YEAR OLD UNITED STATES EMBARGO ON THE EXPORT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN IS BY NO MEANS AN EXTRA-ORDINARY DEVELOPMENT. IT ONLY RECTIFIES THE ANAMOLY WHEREBY, THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE SAID ON THE EVE OF MY VISIT TO WASHINGTON, AN ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES WAS DENIED THE FACILITIES TO PURCHASE ARMS FOR ITS SELF-DEFENCE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

"I HAVE OBSERVED THAT THE LIFTING OF THIS EMBARGO IS BEING STRANGELY INTERPRETED IN INDIA. ACTUALLY, INDIA HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE DEVELOPMENT. IN THE FIRST PLACE, WE ARE DETERMINED TO PRESERVE THE PATH OF THE NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA CHARTED OUT IN THE SIMLA AGREEMENT. SECONDLY, INDIA'S ARMED FORCES AND THEIR EQUIPMENT ARE MANY TIMES THE SIZE OF OURS. IN ADDITION TO ITS OWN ARMS PRODUCTION CAPACITY, INCLUDING A NUCLEAR-WEAPONS CAPABILITY, INDIA RECEIVES CONSIDERABLE ARMS SUPPLIES FROM FOREIGN SOURCES.

"IT IS NOT GOOD FOR PEACE IN ANY REGION THAT ONE COUNTRY SHOULD HAVE TOTAL SECURITY AND THE OTHER TOTAL INSECURITY. THE ENDING OF THE AMERICAN ARMS BAN, THEREFORE, IS BUT A CONTRIBUTION TO THE STABILITY AND SECURITY OF THE REGION IN WHICH INDIA AND PAKISTAN BOTH ARE PLACED. SINCE INDIA IS NOT PAKISTAN'S ONLY NEIGHBOUR AND SINCE, ALSO, THE SITUATION IN THE ENTIRE REGION IS VOLATILE, ONLY THOSE WHO ARE BLIND TO REALITIES WILL CONSIDER THIS A DEVELOPMENT TRIGGERING AN ARMS RACE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT OR UPSETTING A NON-EXISTENT BALANCE. PAKISTAN HAS NEITHER THE RESOURCES NOR THE WISH TO ENTER AN ARMS RACE WHICH WOULD REVERSE ITS ENTIRE ECONOMIC

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 01670 250802Z

PROGRESS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE SITUATION WILL BEFORE LONG BE VIEWED IN THIS SANE PERSPECTIVE BY RATIONAL OPINION IN THE SUB-CONTINENT AS WELL AS BEYOND." UNQUOTE.

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